

Storybook Park Brings Fun and Reading Literacy to Barnesville Memorial Park • Locals Provide Support

ANNUAL REPORT

to West Virginia Flood Victims • Belmont County Sheriff's Log • Somerton Alums Honor Popular Restaurant Owner • Local Quilt History Comes to the Watt Center • Obituaries • Boil Order Issued for SW Barnesville • Shamrock Boys Bowlers Claim OVAC Title • Details Released on I-70/SR 149 Project • Beallsville High Closed • Mayor Breaks Tie on Special Event License • Barnesville Schools Go Cell Phone Free • Tlaquepaque

2024-25

Opens With Ribbon Cutting • Twice-Told Tales Redux • Belmont County Captina Watershed Will Benefit From Rural Recreation Planning Grant • "Cows Out" Brings Charges • Barnesville Race Director Walks to First

Place in Ogden Newspapers Half Marathon • Summer Gatherings at Stillwater Meeting House • Reflections About Memorial Day • Morristown Celebrates Black Horse Inn Restoration Project • I-70 Accidents Snarl Traffic • Barnesville Police Log • Ohio Farm Bureau Welcomes Organization Director • Somerset Township Community Park to Receive Makeover • Ohio Magazine Selects Barnesville as One of Ohio's Best Hometowns • Italy Meets the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival • Belmont County Celebrates 176 Years of the Fair • State Theater Company Achieves Funding Goal, Marks First Century • Drought Conditions Affect Area • Barnesville Council Approves Lease with Gulfport Energy Corporation • Enterprise Album • Harvest History Hunt Virtual Walking Tour • Bethesda Resident Is New Board of Elections Member • Woodsfield Savings Bank Manages the Pumpkin Festival Parade for the Last Year • Hometown Supports Coach Sawvel • Key Club's Many Hands Make Light Work • Shamrock Friday Night Highlights • Neptune Recaptures King Pumpkin Crown • Eyes of Freedom Escorted into Barnesville • Barnesville Schools Receive 3.5 Overall Rating for Test Scores • Corner Pharmacy Is Suddenly Closed • Junior Women's Club Name Change • Barnesville Schools Welcome New PLTW and VEX Robotics Teacher • Genealogy Society Will Visit Military Museum • Quaker City Bank Robbed, Suspect Sought • Assumption Parishioners Picnic in the Park • BHS Class of 1975 Marks Its 50th • Fire Station Drainage Project Underway • Third Story Bradfield Building Project • Barnesville Rotary Dedicates Peace Pole • Holloway Celebrates 77th Oldtimers Baseball Festival • Lawyer Opens Practice in Bethesda • Lady Shamrock Golfer Shines • Progress Continues on Railroad Street Trail, Tunnel Project • Northern Cemetery Tour Participants Learn Local History • Community Calendar • Write-In Votes Will Decide Barnesville, Bethesda Council Races • Transformation of N. Gardner Commercial Building • Beallsville Focus of Wall Street Journal Column • New Cambridge Paper Launches • Trigg Will Cheer for Denver Broncos • Belmont County BOE Consolidates Five Locations into One Site • Captina Creekin' Fest Draws Hundreds • Sewer Work Severs Railroad-Mulberry Crossover • WesBanco Will Shutter Beallsville, Freeport Branches • Barnesville Theater Department Reveals 2025 Musical • Community Foundation Elects • Nonpartisan Group Aims to Unite Belmont County • Schultz Selected to Lead School Board, Standing Committees Set • Barnesville Chamber Welcomes New Board Members • Papa D's Pizza Shop Opens Second Location • Hometown Hero Banner Project • Olney Friends School Annual Fund Drive • Barnesville Cheer Squad Claims Two Competition Titles • BACE Members Share Concerns at Barnesville School Board Meeting • Snow, Cancellations, Ice Rescue Highlights Week Impacted by Weather • Belmont Savings Supports Backpack Program • Sandy Ridge Residence Gutted • Cheffy Drugs Marks 100 Years • Barnesville Area News Website Blossoms • Cruiser Destroyed in High-Speed Pursuit • Barnesville's Population Temporarily Up by One • Feds Cancel Local Health Grant • Soccer Association Sign Up Underway • WVU Medicine/Barnesville Hospital Earns National Recognition • Belmont County Heritage Trail Rubberneck Tour • Barnesville Chamber Banquet Recap • Belmont Coroner Releases Annual Report • Epworth Park Added to Chautauqua Trail • Letters to the Editor • BHS: Last Stop for Booze, Cruise, You Lose Program • Watt Center Has Biggest Book Sale Yet • Bands Featured at Main Street Barrel House • Barnesville's READ Book Club Celebrated National Poetry Month • Rotary Briefed on CARES Program • Shamrocks Repeat as OVAC 3A Wrestling Champs • Mother Nature Extends Christmas Break • Belmont SWCD 2024 Report Issued • Guernsey County Well Pad Explosion/Fire

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A Letter from the President

Wow, what a difference a year makes!

The Barnesville Area News project started as a response to my message at the 2023 Barnesville Chamber Spring Banquet, "What makes Barnesville special and unique!". The following week, I shared the first weekly news roundup on Facebook. From there, the project continued to grow.

A public invitation issued in May 2024 for those interested in establishing a nonprofit news organization led to the formation of the Barnesville Area News Company in August.

In our first year, we've consistently grown our coverage and reach.

Between last November and August 30, the Barnesville Area News Company website had 279,291 page views from 66,272 users across all 50 states

and over 60 countries, such as Ireland, Sweden, China, the Netherlands, Canada, and India.

This was achieved with 1,770 articles and nearly 2,500 posted images, including many exclusive news items.

Across the nation, for-profit newspapers are closing at a significant rate. According to a comprehensive 2024 report by the Local News Initiative, there has been a net loss of more than 3,300 newspapers since 2005, with most closures affecting weekly publications such as the Barnesville Enterprise.

Local news binds communities together, and when it disappears, these areas become "news deserts." Most places that lose local news struggle to find a replacement.

I'm pleased to share that Barnesville is fortunate to not be among those communities!

Thanks to 140 donors who supported us in our inaugural year, we were able to raise enough funds to hire a contract writer. Additionally, our volunteers contributed hours valued at over \$50,000 during this time!

In our second year, we aim to build on our success by expanding sports coverage and moving closer to publishing a print edition of Barnesville Area News.

Achieving this relies on your ongoing financial support for our mission: to uphold the proud legacy of the Barnesville Enterprise by keeping Barnesville and its neighboring communities informed, engaged, and connected.

Yours,



Bruce A. Yarnall, President

The Organization

Barnesville Area News Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, independent local news organization dedicated to providing free, accessible, and trustworthy news to Barnesville and neighboring southeastern Ohio communities. By embracing sustainability, independence, accuracy, reliability, vital local information, and accessibility, Barnesville Area News Company remains a trusted source of news, committed to informing, connecting, and empowering our community today and for generations to come.

Our mission is to continue the proud tradition of the Barnesville Enterprise by keeping Barnesville and the surrounding communities informed, engaged, and connected through accurate reporting and a steadfast commitment to transparency.

Board of Directors



© Barnesville Area News Company

Barnesville Area
News Company
Board of Directors
(Term beginning on
April 7, 2025)

Back, L to R:
Becky Wehr, Anita
Rogers, Beverly
Hannahs, Diane
Reynolds, Lisa
Fowler, Fred
Fowler

Front, L to R:
Lacy A. Burkhart
(Secretary),
Brock Rogers
(Vice-President),
Bruce A. Yarnall
(President), Lisa
Gallagher

Barnesville Area News Company's inaugural Board of Directors signed letters of incorporation on August 28, 2024. All officerships and directorships were retained during elections at the 2025 Annual Meeting held on April 7, 2025.

Our Pillars

Our Vision:

To build a sustainable and independent news organization dedicated to providing accurate and reliable coverage of Barnesville and the surrounding communities, ensuring vital local information remains accessible to all.

Sustainable

We aim for long-term stability in every aspect of our organization.

- I. Balanced business model: volunteers, advertising, and community support.
- II. Invest in adaptable digital and print platforms.
- III. Strengthen community partnerships and engagement.

Accurate

Accuracy builds public trust.

- I. Rigorous fact-checking and corrections policies.
- II. Data-driven, credible journalism.
- III. Upholding ethical standards in sourcing and attributions.

Vital Local Information

We focus on what matters most to the community.

- I. Stories impacting citizens' daily lives: education, safety, business, and civic engagement.
- II. Diverse perspectives and voices are represented.
- III. Strengthen connection, accountability, and transparency.

Independent

Editorial independence ensures our integrity.

- I. Free from political and commercial influence.
- II. Transparent funding and editorial practices.
- III. Serve as a watchdog for truth and accountability.

Reliable

Readers can count on us for consistency.

- I. Dependable coverage of local government, schools, and events.
- II. Consistent professional standards and deadlines.
- III. Fair, balanced reporting across all platforms.

Accessible

Information must be available to all.

- I. Multi-format delivery: print, digital, and social media.
- II. Clear, approachable language for every reader.
- III. Inclusive coverage reflecting the full community.

Highlights from Our Inaugural Year

Over the summer months of 2024, interested Barnesville area community members, helmed by Bruce Yarnall, formed a working group that began brainstorming how to create a local news outlet.

By **August 2024**, Barnesville Area News Company was incorporated with the intent to become an independently operated 501(c)(3). Founding board members were Bruce A. Yarnall, Brock Rogers, Lacy A. Burkhart, Fred Fowler, Lisa Fowler, Lisa Gallagher, Beverly Hannahs, Diane Reynolds, Anita Rogers, and Becky Wehr.

The newly-elected board of directors spent **September** brainstorming operations and fundraising strategies for the new organization and filed the legal paperwork to become a registered 501(c)(3) in Ohio.

The organization received its IRS non-profit certification in **October** and commenced building a website.

On **November 9**, 2024, barnesvillenews.org was officially launched. Coverage of both Barnesville Village Council meetings and BEVSD School Board meetings made a return to local news. BAN

began offering free obituary posting for residents and those connected to the local area as a community service to the public.

From boil order notices to National Honor Society inductions, the expansive coverage in **December** led to BAN more clearly categorizing articles on its website.

January 2025 was spent adding a community calendar to the website, so that the public could easily follow the civic, school, sports, and arts and cultural events in the area. BAN also joined the Barnesville Area Chamber of Commerce and planned participation in spring community events.

The website experienced a 56.9 percent increase in webpage views during the month of **February**.

Debuting in **March**, the much-anticipated Barnesville Police Log made its return to local publication. The first log featured a high percentage of traffic stops and became one of the year's top viewed articles.

The inaugural annual meeting by the Board of Directors was held in **April**. All founding

board members retained their directorships and officerships. Work sessions were scheduled to alternate with regular board meetings, allowing volunteers to focus on specific topics during a time of great growth.

After a steady increase in public awareness, the email system was upgraded in **May** to better support the growth of the BAN daily email newsletter list.

In **June**, BAN contracted its first general reporter, Josie Burkhart, a Barnesville High School and Kent State alumna. In her first few days on the job, she covered the local council meeting and the volunteer-run summer lunch program.

Positive feedback from attendees was received while BAN participated at the Barnesville Alumni Banquet in **July**. BAN began planning the organization's community outreach strategy for the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival.

Barnesville Area News Company celebrated its first year of formation in **August 2025**. Former reporter and owner of the Barnesville Enterprise, Jean Palmer Davies, was installed as an honorary trustee and founding member.

Impact in the **Community**

Photo provided by Barnesville Area Chamber of Commerce



Barnesville Area News Company is dedicated to providing accurate and reliable local news coverage of Barnesville and the surrounding southeastern Ohio communities. We strive to achieve this by **building trust** and transparency within these communities.

During our first year of operation, volunteers and board members presented overviews about Barnesville Area News Company to several local community organizations, and participated in Airport Day, the Barnesville High School Alumni Banquet, Back to School Fun In the Ville and the Barnesville Area Chamber of Commerce Spring Banquet.

As a **community service**, Barnesville Area News Company publishes obituaries of current and former area residents free of charge as well as a community calendar.

We also are dedicated to **providing civic transparency** to the community by covering every meeting of the Barnesville Exempted Village School District Board and the Village of Barnesville Council. We are also the only local news source publishing excerpts from the Village of Barnesville Police Log.

Readers **Said...**

FINALLY! All my Barnesville news in one place. - *Matt. L.*

Even though I no longer live in the area, I enjoy keeping up with the town I was born and raised (in). Very glad to see Barnesville news again. - *Kenneth H.*

It feels like the *Enterprise* came home.- *Myra Y.*

Thank you for this opportunity to keep us connected to our hometown community. - *Hope S.*

So glad to have a source of news for our local area. - *Kellie L.*

Thank you for the time, effort, and dedication put forth to inform Barnesville residents and neighbors concerning all facets of news in our community. Kudos to you all on a job well done and look forward to each "addition." - *Mary Jane W.*

I am proud to say Barnesville is my hometown. - *Mary Ann S.*

By the **Numbers**

66.27K

Total Website Users

279K

Individual Page Views

1.77K

Articles and Obituaries
Published

2.4K

Images Published

600+

Email Newsletter
Subscribers

32.7%

Email Newsletter
Click Through Rate

2.16K

Social Media Followers

1.36M

Facebook Post Views

79.1K

Facebook Users
Reached

140

Donors

9

Anonymous Donors

\$9.79

Average Monthly
Donation by Individuals

The above data encompasses financial, website, and social media activity between August 2024 and August 2025.

Top Ten **Most Read**

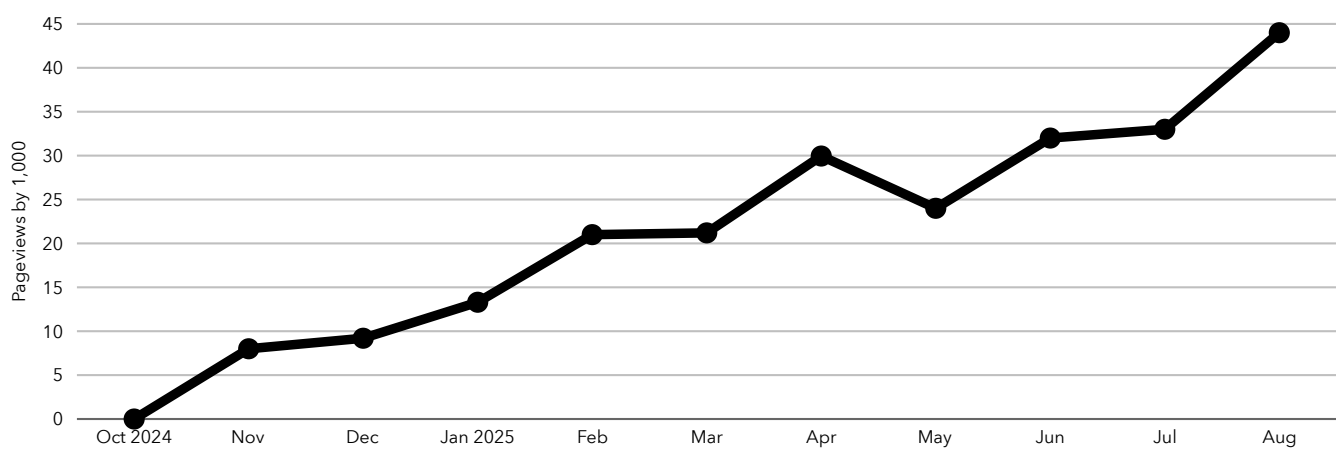
Articles published between Nov 2024 and Aug 2025

1	Two Council Members ‘Throw in the Towel’	3,454 views
2	Tlaquepaque Mexican Restaurant Coming to Barnesville	3,238 views
3	Public Addresses Gun Incident at School	1,931 views
4	Barnesville Tlaquepaque Opening in May	1,817 views
5	Barnesville Police Log Returns!	1,757 views
6	Barnesville Elementary Student Brings Gun to School	1,718 views
7	‘Old Guard’ Selected for Council Seats	1,717 views
8	A New Day on N. Gardner Street	1,619 views
9	Barnesville Police Log 03.23.25	1,570 views
10	Back In Business! [Barnesville BMV Reopens]	1,506 views

Top Three Most Read Ongoing Categories:

- 1. Obituaries
- 2. Twice-Told Tales Redux
- 3. Barnesville Police Log

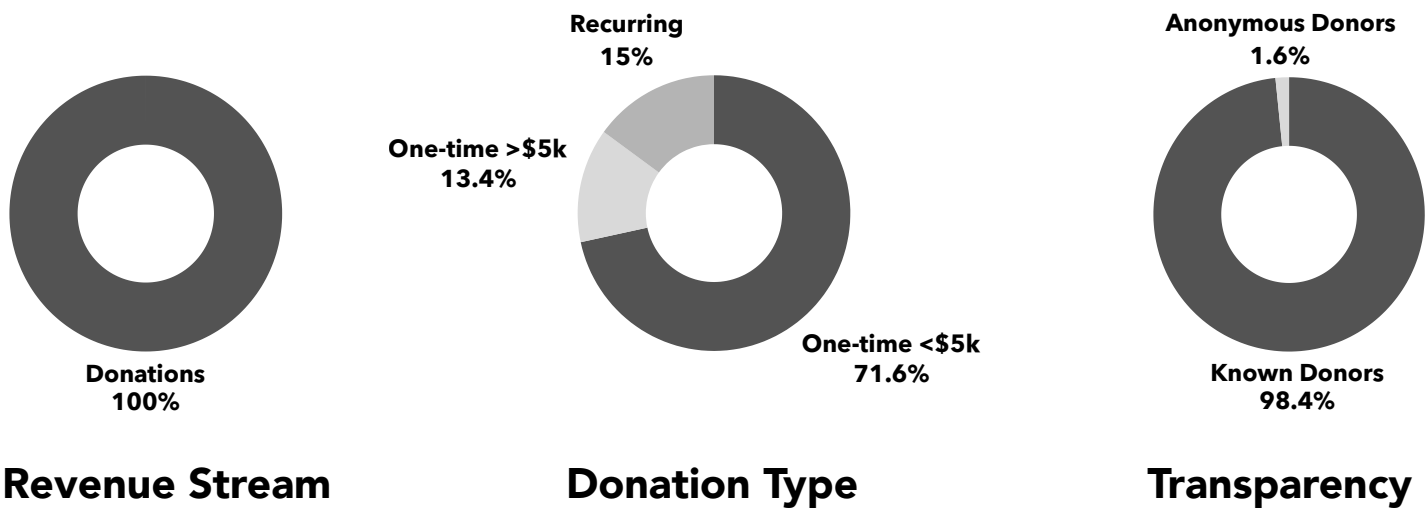
Website **Pageviews**



People are reading from
50 States and **60+ Countries**,
such as Ireland, Sweden, China, the Netherlands, Canada and India.

Financial Transparency

Below is a snapshot of Barnesville Area News Company's financial donor data from August 28, 2024 through August 31, 2025.



Overview of Finances

Barnesville Area News Company came into existence as **a registered 501(c)(3)** in Autumn 2024.

Since then, volunteers and board members developed a website, secured insurance needed to operate responsibly and sustainably, expanded community outreach, hired our first writer, began accepting donations online, and outlined a growth plan focused on diversifying our revenue streams. Most importantly, we achieved what we set out to do: bring local news coverage back to Barnesville and the surrounding area.

A fundraising goal of \$25,000.00 was established with explicit hopes to hire a contract writer.

Happily, Barnesville Area News Company exceeded its goal by raising \$37,913.41 between August 2024 and August 2025. All of the first year revenue was funded through donations by individuals, organizations, and small businesses.

Donation requests were solicited through presentations at local nonprofit organizational meetings, an email campaign, personal communications with family, friends and neighbors, social media posts, and on our website. Additionally, our volunteers provided time equivalent to over \$50,000.00.

Our second year of operations will see the addition of business advertising on the barnesvillenews.org website, with the potential to expand to email newsletter sponsorships. We also hope to join a program that offers financial donation matches, as well as apply for relevant grants.

Our 2026 donation goal is \$45,000.00 with hopes to both cover basic operating costs and expand our writing staff, especially dedicating coverage to surrounding communities and local sports.

Balance Sheet

Financial activity between Aug 2024 and Aug 2025

Our Volunteers

Barnesville Area News Company volunteers generously donate their time and expertise through reporting, editing, website development and management, marketing, non-profit organization, and community outreach.

Although their passion and dedication is priceless, their combined volunteered time was equivalent to more than \$50,000 of paid working hours.

Income

	2024	2025
Business Donation	750.00	1,000.00
Individual Donation	8,897.00	25,265.41
Organizational Donation	1,000.00	1,001.00
Advertising + Sponsorship	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00
Earned Revenue	0.00	0.00
In-Kind Goods + Services	0.00	0.00
Total Income	10,647.00	27,266.41

Expenses

	2024	2025
Legal- 501(c)(3) Registration	275.00	0.00
Operations	28.51	0.00
Advertising + Marketing	0.00	945.05
Postage/Mailing Service	0.00	84.00
Membership Dues	0.00	100.00
Insurance	0.00	2,322.00
Payroll	0.00	6,480.00
Online Processing Fees	77.32	407.65
Total Expenses	380.83	10,338.70

Contributors | Donors

Barnesville Area News Company's financial contributors from August 28, 2024 through August 31, 2025:

Individual Donors

(\$1-\$4999)

Alice Hunkler
Angela Bahmer
Anita Rogers
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Becky Steele
Beth & Kurt Seneff
Betty Eddy
Bev Shull
Beverly Hannahs
Brenda Brown
Brent Yarnall
Bret Preston
Brian Yarnall
Brock Rogers
Bruce & Cindy McGee
Bruce Yarnall
Casey McClelland
Cathy Carter
Christy Fowler Kinzelman
Chuck Bundy
Connie Bourne
Connie Skinner
Connie Taylor
Daniel & Kathryn Warfield
Darren Miller
Dave & Jeanette Hissom
David & Jane Daley
Derek Gallagher

Diane Reynolds
Donald & Deborah Cook
Doris Turner
Douglas Huff
Edward & Alicia Turner
Edward & Heather Eberhart
Frederick & Jean Cooper
Gerald Jones
Gina Wehr
Harriett Gregory
Harry Skinner
Hope Smith
Jake Hershberger
James & Amy Yevincy
Jane Burkhart
Jane Gregg
Jane Neeley
Jane Sawvel Daley
Jay Phillips
Jean Ann Corbin-Hannon
Jennifer Laity
Jill Crosier
Jim & Shelly Thompson
Joel & Shelley Rockwell
John & Lynn Cline
John & Paulette Sawvel
John & Sandra Fisher
John Roe
Joyce Spigarelli
Kellie Loudin
Ken Hennebert
Kim & Donna McFarland
KittyJo Paboucek
Kristen & John Wolfe
Lacy Burkhart
Legenia Guindon

Lenane Turner Figge
Lisa & Fred Fowler
Lorraine Kuthy
Malcolm Spence
Marie Bundy
Mark Froehlich
Marsha McCort
Mary Ann Semigel
Mary Jane Wood
Max Burkhart
Melinda Anderson
Micah Fuchs
Michael Munas
Michael Sulek
Michael Woodland
Mike Keylor
Mike Lucas
Mindy McClure Tetrault
Myra Young
Nancy Murphy
Nancy Napolitano
Nancy Thomson
Nancy Wisniewski
Niranjan & Diana Kaul
Patricia & Alan Logan
Patricia Wilcox
Patricia Yarnall
Rebecca Thomas
Rhonda Lahey
Richard & Julie Gibson
Richard & Theresa Marmie
Richard Thomas
Robert & Judy Hannahs
Robert & Kathy Froehlich
Ron Hunkler
Ronald Preston

Rose Gear
 Roy & Dorothy Brown
 Samuel Thompson
 Sara & Roger Johnson
 Sharon Marmie Lantieri
 Shauna & Edward Benson
 Steven Perun
 Susan Yutzey
 Susan Lapham
 Suzanne Hanlon
 Tami Sowers Tuten
 Thomas & Brenda Freeman
 Thomas & Cathy Morrison
 Thomas & Martha Winland
 Thomas Lynch
 Thomas Sowers
 Timothy & Elizabeth McKelvey
 Tom & Lisa Gallagher
 Tony & Julie Starr
 William Nesbitt
 Wanda Jean Rockwell
 Warren Township
 William M Daniels

(\$5000+)
 Rich & Mary Sidwell

Organizations

Barnesville Chamber of
 Commerce
 Barnesville Kiwanis Club
 Barnesville Rotary Club
 Junior Women's Club

Businesses

Barnesville Vet Services
 The Flower Gardens
 William Knox CPA Inc

How To Contribute

Barnesville Area News Company is dedicated to providing free, accessible and trustworthy news to Barnesville and neighboring southeastern Ohio communities.

Your support today makes this work possible. Every gift makes a difference, but monthly or annual recurring donations provide long-term sustainability, helping us grow and prepare for the future. You can adjust or cancel your recurring **debit** or **credit card** donation at any time through Buy Me A Coffee.

If you would like to donate offline, please make **checks** or **money orders** payable to "Barnesville Area News Company" and send to us at Barnesville Area News Company, PO Box 266, Barnesville OH 43713

Contributions or gifts to the Barnesville Area News Company, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, are **tax deductible**.

Every donation is greatly valued and appreciated. For those who would like a weekly cost breakdown, below are suggested annual donation levels:

Subscriber \$60.00 (\$1.16/week)
Paper Carrier \$100.00 (\$1.92/week)
Printer \$250.00 (\$4.80/week)
Staff Writer \$500.00 (\$9.60/week)
Editor \$750.00 (\$14.42/week)
Publisher \$1,000.00 (\$19.23/week)



Donate Online:

Use the QR code above to donate online today with Buy Me A Coffee.

Looking Forward to 2026

Barnesville Area News Company is excited to continue its mission of providing accurate reporting and a steadfast commitment to transparency as **we navigate into 2026 with the following goals:**

Our Content

- Expand our reporting to include more stories about our neighbors in Bethesda, Belmont and Morristown to Fairview, Quaker City, Batesville and the northern Monroe County communities of Beallsville, Jerusalem, Malaga and Miltonsburg
- Provide dedicated sports coverage
- Continue work towards the feasibility of a printed edition

Our Community

- Host candidate forums for local elections, such as school board and village council races
- Increase public awareness by participating in events, such as festival and holiday parades, the In the Ville series, and Barnesville High School's Career Day.

Our Financial Position

- Establish a fundraising goal of \$45,000 in 2026
- Introduce online advertising opportunities to assist in meeting our operating budget
- Apply for membership to the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN) to gain access to industry knowledge and resources, such as donation matches

Our People

- Add operational volunteers, advisors with journalism and non-profit experience, and dedicated beat writers
- Seek written and other original news content that follows journalistic standards set by the Society of Professional Journalists from community members, including students, freelancers, and capable amateur writers

Join Our Team

Barnesville Area News Company's content is produced by a small staff of contracted, freelance and volunteer writers, editors and photographers. **We always welcome new writers, photographers, and those with other skills and talents**, such as proofreading, editing, graphic designing, videography, research, social media engagement, marketing, data analysis, office administration, fundraising, and event planning, to contribute to this citizen-run local news nonprofit. To learn more, contact us at **help@barnesvillenews.org**.

Honoring Jean Palmer Davies

© Barnesville Area News Company



© Barnesville Area News Company



Photo provided by Sally Davies Johnson



Board members of the Barnesville Area News Company honored Jean Davies, longtime editor and contributor to the Barnesville Enterprise, by naming her an honorary trustee and founder of the nonprofit news organization.

In August, marking the first anniversary of the Barnesville Area News Company's founding, the Board of Directors recognized retired Barnesville journalist Jean Davies by appointing her as an honorary trustee and founder.

Bruce Yarnall, who started a local news outlet to succeed the Barnesville Enterprise in 2023, credits Davies as his inspiration.

"Jean's commitment to the Barnesville Enterprise and community inspired me to begin posting weekly news reports on Facebook," Yarnall said.

Jean joined the Enterprise newspaper owned and operated by her parents, after graduating from The Ohio State University.

Jean worked as a full-time local news reporter until she retired in the early 1990s. Even after retiring, she continued to write features and her weekly "Jeanealities" column for our cherished Barnesville Enterprise, entertaining readers and preserving history right up to the newspaper's 150th Anniversary in 2016, according to Yarnall.

At 98 years old, Davies lives at the Walton Home and continues to be an invaluable source of knowledge about the local community and its surroundings.

After the presentation, Davies, her family, and the inaugural board of the Barnesville Area News Company socialized briefly. True to form, she remained throughout the remainder of the business meeting!

Want to stay up-to-date with all the stories?
Scan the QR code to sign up for our daily email newsletter.

